

No Items for Final Word Forum --- No Final Word Forum on Monday, November 7, 2016

The Santa Clara Votes program has held two candidate forums for each of the six offices that are on the November 8, 2016 Santa Clara Municipal Ballot. Each and every one of those forums are archived on the City of Santa Clara's website.

Additionally, one Accountability Forum was held in late October. The Accountability Forum is the portion of the Santa Clara Votes program where candidates or committees are held to account for potential violations of the Code of Campaign Ethics that all but one candidate signed at the beginning of the election season. The Code of Campaign Ethics is intended to hold candidates and committees accountable in terms of operating fair, robust campaigns, but to avoid lies, quotes taken out of context, or other misrepresentations of another candidate's personal history or conduct during the campaign.

During this election cycle, thirteen (13) complaints of alleged violations of the Code of Campaign Ethics have been filed with the City's Democracy Consultant. Ten of those complaints have either not related to the Code of Campaign Ethics, were submitted without attribution, or the allegation did not seem to be supported by the evidence submitted by the complaining party. Three complaints did rise to the level that "triggered on" the Accountability Forum in late October. The video of that Accountability Forum is posted on the City of Santa Clara's website.

Since the Accountability Forum in October, two additional complaints have been filed. One was submitted without identifying the complaining party, and is thus ineligible for consideration. The second was, in essence, a resubmittal of one of the complaints that was subject to the Accountability Forum last month. After three in depth reviews of this single complaint, the Democracy Consultant has decided that this matter was given sufficient public airing, and there is not a need for another forum on this already disposed of topic.

Insofar as there are no pending items that would "trigger on" the Accountability Forum on Monday, November 7, 2016, this is the formal announcement that a Final Word Forum will not be held as there is no business to transact.

News item prepared by Fred Keeley, Democracy Consultant